

REMARKS

The Office action of November 26, 2007, has been carefully considered.

The specification has been amended to delete references to specific claim numbers, and to add subject matter headings.

Claims 1-13 have been rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite on several grounds. Claims 1-13 have now been canceled and replaced by a new set of Claims 14 through 26, written in proper form for U.S. practice. In light of the submission of this new set of claims, withdrawal of this rejection is requested.

Claims 1-2, 5-8 and 10-13 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by DE 4338103 (the German patent), and Claims 3-4 and 9 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over DE 4338103 in view of Manchester.

The invention is directed to a device for converting wave energy to electrical energy comprising a plurality of floating bodies arranged in at least two parallel rows with each floating body connected to a linear energy converter for converting the wave energy to kinetic energy in a mechanical system converted to an electrical generator. An upper and a lower carrying structure are provided, between which the floating bodies are arranged, and vertical supporting bars are connected to the floating bodies, these bars held between the upper carrying structure and the lower carrying structure. An extended buoyancy tank is connected with the lower carrying structure at opposite structure sides, the buoyancy tanks being constructed and arranged for filling with seawater for lowering the wave-power device into the sea to reduce the risk of damage during bad weather. The electrical generator is integrated between the vertical supporting bars and a corresponding floating body.

The German patent is also directed to a device for obtaining electric energy from the energy of waves. According

to the Office action, the device comprises linear generators GEB between an upper and lower carriage (Fig. 9), floating bodies SPG, buoyancy tanks BA, cables AKA and permanent magnets as shown in Figures 5 and 6. Applicants disagree with this interpretation, however. According to the German text, "BA" is ballast or "dead freight" and cannot be compared with the tanks 19 and 20, both in structure and function. The ballast tanks of the German patent do not have the function of lowering the structure into the sea to prevent against prevent damage in case of bad weather.

In the German patent, there is no structure which is capable of lowering the device into the sea to protect the device in bad weather. The only buoyancy bodies in the German structure are bodies I and II, which have a function comparable to the floating bodies 12 of the presently claimed invention.

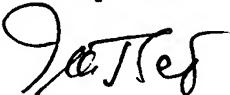
It is suggested that a full translation of the German patent be obtained, from which it can be determined that there is no device with such function as is presently claimed.

Manchester has been cited to show a wave energy power plant comprising an AC/DC converter. Manchester does not cure the defects of the German patent.

Withdrawal of these rejections is requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that the present application is now in condition for allowance. An early allowance of the application with amended claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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